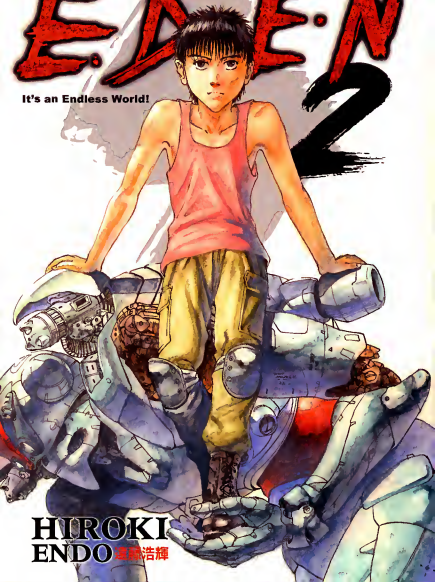


# E.A.E.N

It's an Endless World!



**HIROKI**  
**ENDO** 遠藤浩輝



# EDEN

HIROKI  
ENDO 遠藤浩輝

It's an Endless World!



TRANSLATION / KUMAR SIVASUBRAMANIAN

EDITING / STEVE DUTRO

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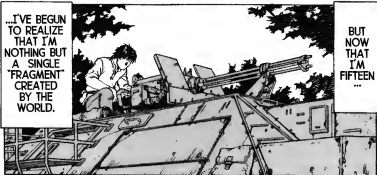
...THE  
WHOLE  
WORLD  
BELONGED  
TO ME.

WHEN  
I WAS  
STILL  
JUST A  
KID...



...I'VE BEGUN  
TO REALIZE  
THAT I'M  
NOTHING BUT  
A SINGLE  
"FRAGMENT"  
CREATED  
BY THE  
WORLD.

BUT  
NOW  
THAT  
I'M  
FIFTEEN  
...



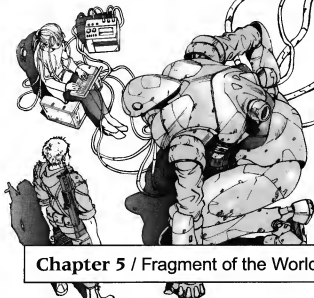
...AND  
POWER-  
LESS.

SO  
VERY  
TINY...



...I HAVE  
NO DOUBT  
THAT  
THE WORLD  
WOULD BE  
MISSING  
THAT TINY  
"FRAGMENT"  
OF ITSELF.

BUT  
IF I  
WERE  
TO  
DIE...



## Chapter 5 / Fragment of the World

YUP,  
THAT'S THE  
BIGGEST  
PROBLEM  
WITH AN INDEPEN-  
DENTLY  
OPERATING  
AI.

"FRAME  
SYSTEM"  
...?

AI: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

HOWEVER,  
THIS  
IS VERY  
DIFFICULT  
FOR AN AI  
TO DO UNDER  
PRESSURE.

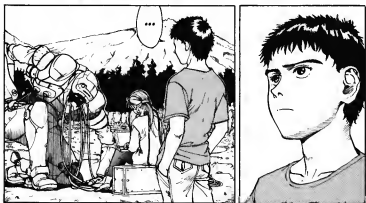
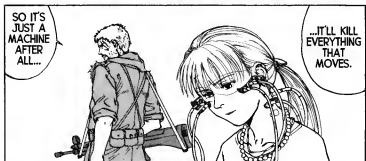
FOR SOME  
REASON,  
HUMANS ARE  
ABLE TO  
LIMIT THEIR  
PERCEPTIONS  
TO THOSE  
THINGS THAT  
CONCERN THEM  
DIRECTLY.

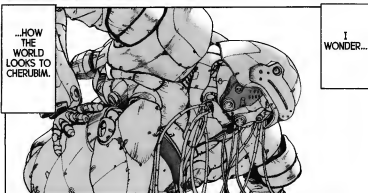
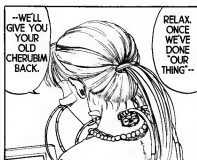
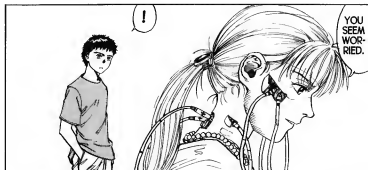
IF WE  
HAD TO  
RESPOND  
TO EVERY  
PIECE OF  
INFORMA-  
TION THAT  
WE SAW  
OR HEARD,  
WE'D  
SNAP.

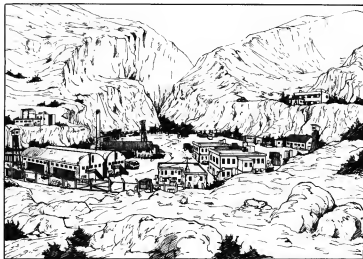
HUMAN BEINGS  
ARE ABLE TO  
RESTRICT THEIR  
AWARENESS TO  
THE THINGS WHICH  
AFFECT THEM...AND  
IGNORE THOSE  
WHICH DON'T,  
RIGHT?

YOU'RE IN  
FOR A BIG  
MESS IF  
YOU JUST  
THROW  
IT INTO  
COMBAT  
WITHOUT  
ONE.

IN THE CASE  
OF AN AI,  
YOU  
NEED TO FIRST  
SET UP A  
FRAME THAT  
SORTS OUT  
INFORMATION.



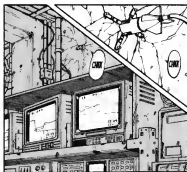


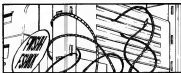
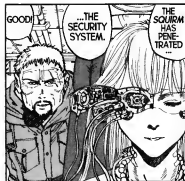














I.C.E.: INTRUSION COUNTERMEASURES ELECTRONICS

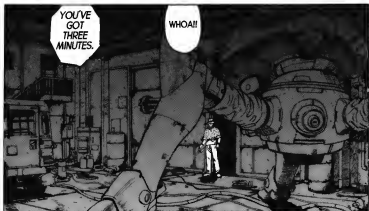




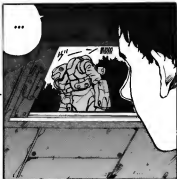
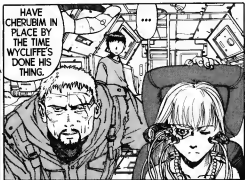
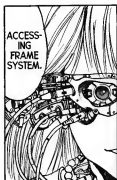










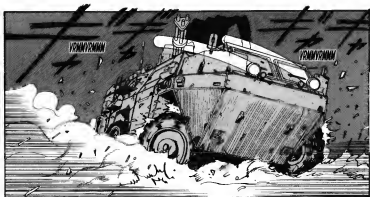


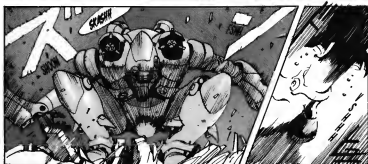


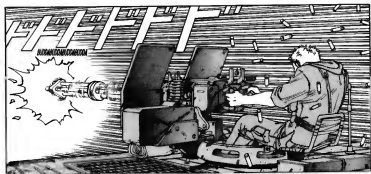










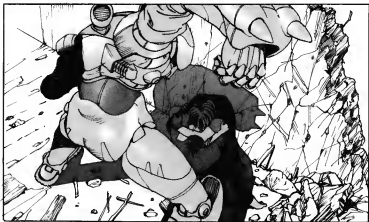


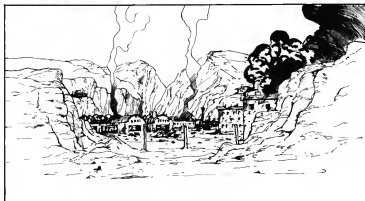
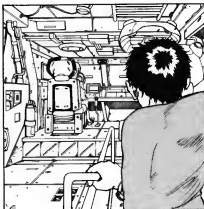


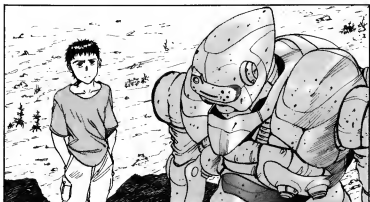




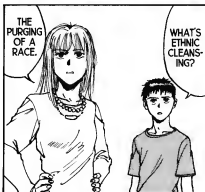










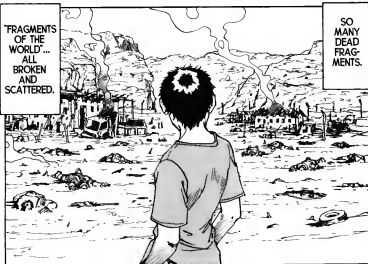






"FRAGMENTS  
OF THE  
WORLD"...  
ALL  
BROKEN  
AND  
SCATTERED.

SO  
MANY  
DEAD  
FRAG-  
MENTS.

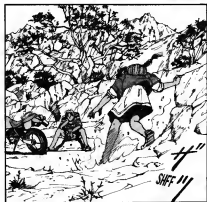


I WANT  
TO BE  
A PART  
OF THE  
WORLD...

...NOT  
BROKEN  
AND  
SCATTERED  
TO THE  
WIND.

**Chapter 6 / Today,  
Tomorrow, Someday**









THEY  
WOULD'VE  
KICKED  
MY ASS  
FOR EVEN  
OPENING  
MY MOUTH  
IN THE  
TRUCK.

IT'S  
HELENA.

UMM..  
EXCUSE ME,  
BUT I STILL  
DON'T KNOW  
WHAT YOUR  
NAME IS.



THERE ARE  
GUERRILLAS  
CRAWLING  
ALL OVER  
THE  
VILLAGES  
—

BUT  
WHAT  
WILL  
WE DO  
WHEN  
WE GET  
DOWN?



OKAY,  
KACHUA,  
SHOW US  
THE WAY  
DOWN THIS  
MOUNTAIN!

I'M  
KACHUA  
!



IF  
THEY'RE  
ALIVE,  
YOU'LL  
SEE THEM  
AGAIN!

QUIT  
BEING SO  
PESSIMISTIC!

...AND I  
DON'T KNOW  
WHERE MY  
FATHER OR  
MOTHER  
ARE ANY-  
MORE--



BUT  
MAYBE  
THEY'RE  
ACTUALLY  
GOOD  
PEOPLE...

...



ANYWAY,  
WE'VE  
GOTTA  
PUT SOME  
DISTANCE  
BETWEEN  
US AND  
THEM.

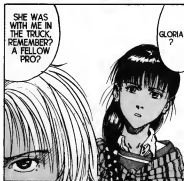
'CAUSE  
THERE'S  
NO WAY  
THEY'RE  
INTENDING  
TO JUST  
LET US  
LIVE.



BUT...THEY  
GAVE US  
ALL THE  
FOOD AND  
BLANKETS  
WE  
WANTED--

IT'S  
PRACTICALLY  
A MIRACLE  
THEY DIDN'T  
JUST KILL  
US ON  
SIGHT!

ARE  
YOU  
STUPID  
?!



SHE WAS  
WITH ME IN  
THE TRUCK,  
REMEMBER?  
A FELLOW  
PRO?

GLORIA  
?



THOSE  
BASTARDS  
DIDN'T EVEN  
THINK TWICE  
ABOUT  
KILLING  
GLORIA!

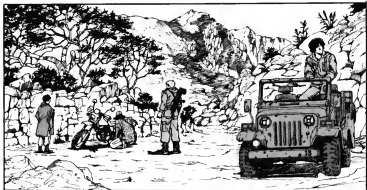
WILL YOU  
QUIT WITH  
THE "BUT  
THIS" AND  
"BUT THAT  
BUSINESS  
?"

BUT--

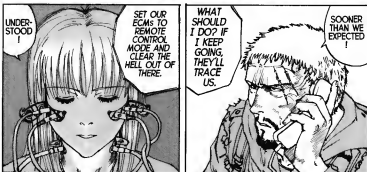
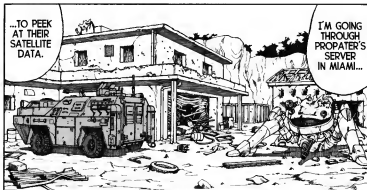




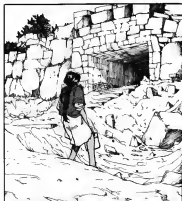




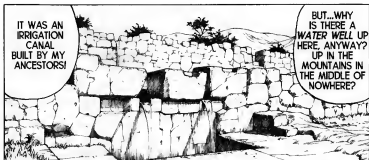












IT WAS AN  
IRRIGATION  
CANAL  
BUILT BY MY  
ANCESTORS!

BUT...WHY  
IS THERE A  
WATER WELL UP  
HERE, ANYWAY?  
UP IN THE  
MOUNTAINS IN  
THE MIDDLE OF  
NOWHERE?



NOTHING  
EVER  
CHANGES.

WE WERE  
CONQUERED  
BY SPAIN SO  
LONG AGO.  
NOW THE  
SAME  
THING'S  
HAPPENED,  
HASN'T  
IT?



THE PEOPLE  
OF MY TRIBE  
ARE  
DESCENDANTS  
OF THE  
INCAS.

YOUR  
ANCEST-  
ORS?



THAT DOESN'T  
JUSTIFY THEM  
FORCING US  
TO WORK THE  
COCA FIELDS  
AND--

IT CUTS  
BOTH  
WAYS!

YEAH, BUT  
THE INCAN  
EMPIRE  
CONQUERED  
LOTS OF  
OTHER  
PEOPLES  
IN TIMES  
OF WAR,  
DIDN'T  
THEY?





...



...ARE  
YOU  
TREATING  
ME LIKE  
THIS...?

WHY...



BY  
BEING A  
WHORE?

...AND THE  
TRUTH IS,  
I'M THE  
SAME  
WAY.

IN THE END,  
NOBODY EVER  
THINKS ABOUT  
ANYTHING  
EXCEPT  
THEIR OWN  
PROSPERITY...



IS IT  
REALLY,  
I  
WONDER  
?

THE FASTEST  
WAY TO  
ESCAPE FROM  
A PILE OF  
SHIT SLUM IS  
TO "SELL  
YOUR BODY,"  
AS THEY SAY.



YOU'LL  
NEVER SEE  
ME SPENDING  
MY LIFE AS  
A PATHETIC  
WAGE SLAVE  
IN SOME  
TIN-CAN  
FACTORY!

YEP!

IF YOUR LIFE  
IS DEPENDENT  
ON ONE  
MAN...THAT  
JUST MAKES  
YOU AN  
EXCLUSIVE  
WHORE!

YOU'RE ONE  
OF THOSE  
GIRLS, AREN'T  
YOU? A GIRL  
WHOSE WHOLE  
GOAL IN LIFE  
IS FINDING A  
HUSBAND?

DON'T YOU  
THINK ABOUT  
MORE THAN  
LOOKING  
DOWN  
ON MEN  
AND USING  
THEM?!

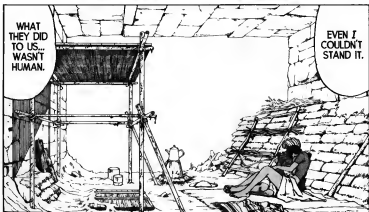
WHAT ARE  
YOU SAYING?  
YOU'VE  
TOTALLY LEFT  
OUT THE  
QUESTION  
OF LOVE.

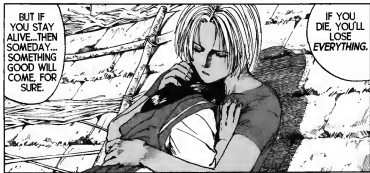
A PROSTITUTE  
EARNS HER  
OWN LIVING.  
IT'S A  
NOBLE AND  
HONORABLE  
PROFESSION...  
AND THE  
DEMAND  
IS ALWAYS  
HIGH.

I DON'T  
WANNA BE A  
"WIFE"--  
SOMEBODY'S  
POSSESSION  
FOR MAKING  
BABIES.

HOW DID  
THOSE MEN  
BACK THERE  
TREAT YOU?  
HUH? GO ON--  
TELL ME!

OH!! YOU  
HAVE SUCH  
GREAT  
EXPECTATIONS  
OF MEN,  
DO YOU?!







...AND SHE WAS EXILED. SHE ENDED UP IN LIMA.

SHE ENDED UP PREGNANT WITH THE CHILD OF A LAND-OWNER...



...WAS BORN AROUND HERE.

MY GRAND-MOTHER...



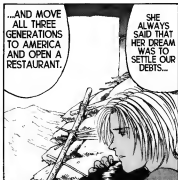
THEN MOTHER AND CHILD BECAME A PERFECT PAIR OF PROSTITUTES! DOESN'T IT MAKE YOU WANNA LAUGH?

THAT'S WHERE MY MOTHER WAS BORN.



JUST LIKE YOU SAID BEFORE.

BUT NOTHING EVER CHANGED.



...AND MOVE ALL THREE GENERATIONS TO AMERICA AND OPEN A RESTAURANT.

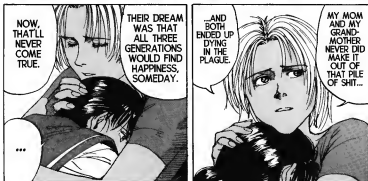
SHE ALWAYS SAID THAT HER DREAM WAS TO SETTLE OUR DEBTS...



...BUT THOSE  
KIDS JUST  
END UP  
ON THE  
SAME PATHS  
AS THEIR  
PARENTS.

THAT'S WHAT  
EVERYONE  
THINKS,  
WORKING  
THEMSELVES  
TO DEATH...

"I  
WANT MY  
CHILDREN  
TO HAVE  
A GOOD  
LIFE. AT  
LEAST."



NOW,  
THAT'LL  
NEVER  
COME  
TRUE.

THEIR DREAM  
WAS THAT  
ALL THREE  
GENERATIONS  
WOULD FIND  
HAPPINESS,  
SOMEDAY.

...AND  
BOTH  
ENDED UP  
DYING IN  
THE PLAGUE.

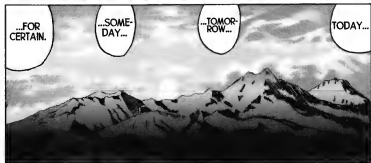
MY MOM  
AND MY  
GRAND-  
MOTHER  
NEVER DID  
MAKE IT  
OUT OF  
THAT PILE  
OF SHIT...

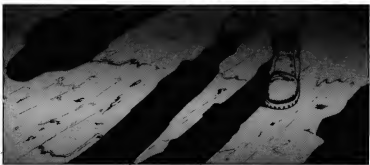
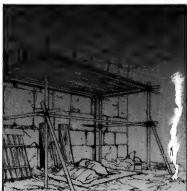
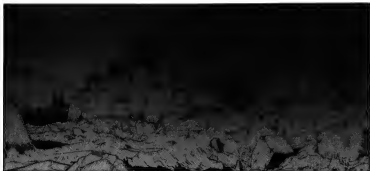
...



...I MAY NOT  
BELIEVE IN  
ANYTHING  
LIKE "GOD"...

BUT,  
KACHUA,  
LISTEN...





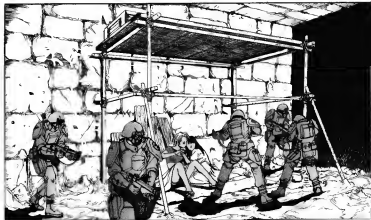






## Chapter 7 / Powerless





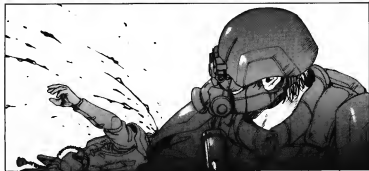
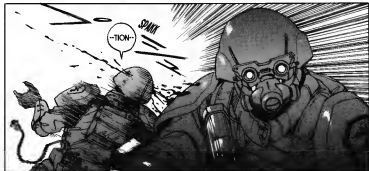
—YOU WILL  
NOT DIE  
UNTIL YOU'VE  
ANSWERED  
ALL OF OUR  
QUESTIONS.

LET ME  
MAKE  
THIS  
CLEAR--



...THEN  
YOU'LL  
TRY TO  
REMEMBER  
EVERY  
SINGLE  
DETAIL!

IF YOU  
WANT  
YOUR  
DEATHS  
TO BE  
EASY...

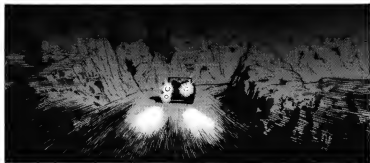






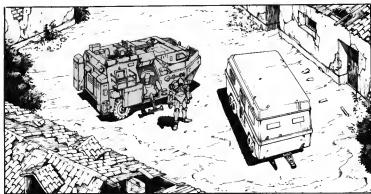


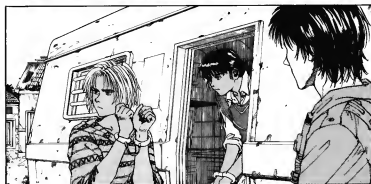
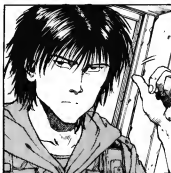






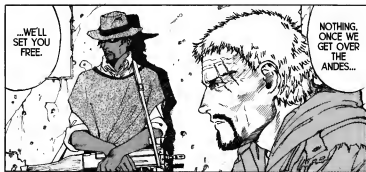




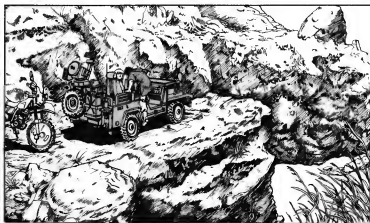
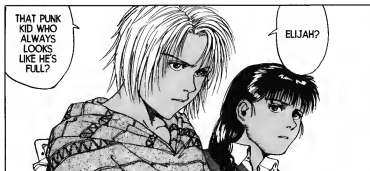




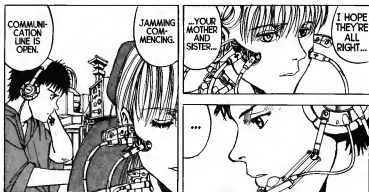


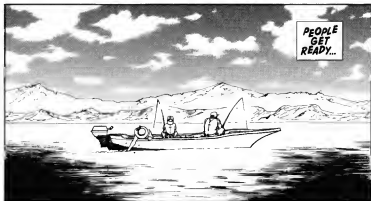


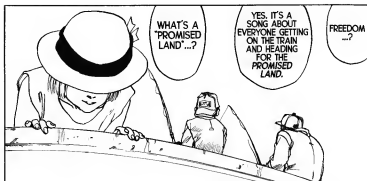










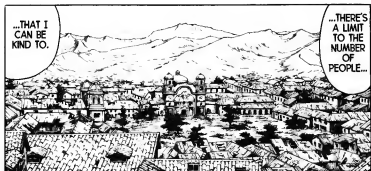






...THAT I  
CAN BE  
KIND TO.

...THERE'S  
A LIMIT  
TO THE  
NUMBER  
OF  
PEOPLE...



OKAY!

HOW'D  
IT  
GO?



SO, I  
GUESS  
THE  
NEXT  
THING  
IS  
TO  
GET  
READY  
TO  
GREET  
OUR  
FOES!

GOOD.



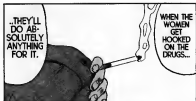














...THE  
GUERRILLAS  
EXPLOITED  
THE INDIOS  
IN THE COCA  
FIELDS...

THEN, ONCE  
THEY CAME  
TO THE  
MOUNTAINS...



YOU WERE  
RAISED  
SO  
BIG AND  
STRONG...

!



...THEY'D  
RAPE THEM  
TO WHILE  
AWAY THE  
TIME.

...AND  
WHEN THEY  
FOUND  
PRETTY  
YOUNG  
GIRLS LIKE  
KACHUA...



YOUR  
FATHER  
MUST BE  
AWFULLY  
PROUD!

...THANKS  
TO THE  
SACRIFICE  
OF GIRLS  
LIKE HER.









Chapter 8 / Hostages

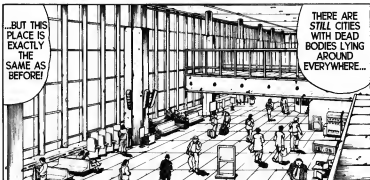


...HANNAH  
BALLARD.

WE POLICE  
ARE QUITE  
COMPLEX  
IN MANY  
WAYS,  
TOO...







...BUT THIS PLACE IS EXACTLY THE SAME AS BEFORE!

THERE ARE STILL CITIES WITH DEAD BODIES LYING AROUND EVERYWHERE...



THEY SAY IT WAS THE BIGGEST DISASTER SINCE THE BLACK PLAGUE!

WAS IT REALLY THAT BAD, LENNY?



...FROM THE AFTER-EFFECTS.

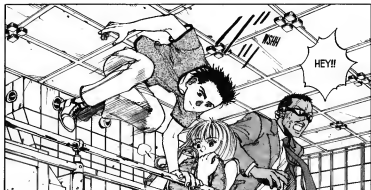
A GREAT NUMBER OF PEOPLE ARE STILL SUFFERING...



...WITH HARDENED TISSUE COULDN'T GO BACK TO THE WAY THEY WERE.

EVEN AFTER THE SPREAD OF THE CLOSURE VIRUS WAS CONTAINED, INFECTED PEOPLE...







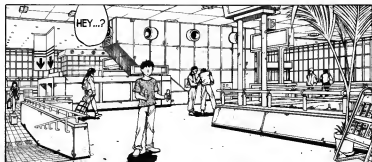


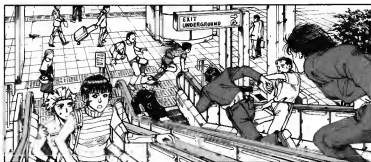
















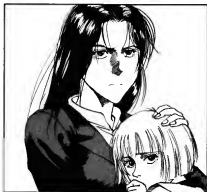


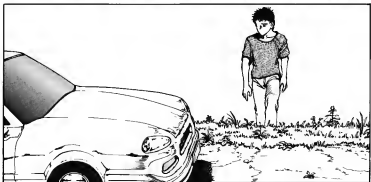




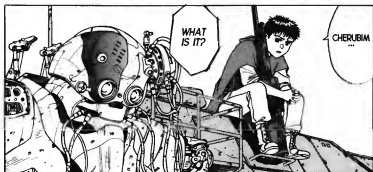
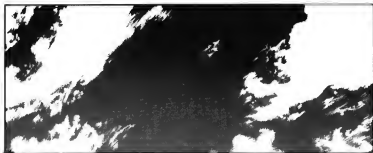










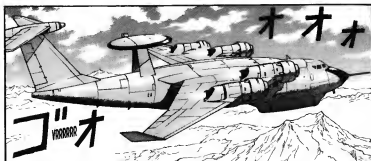


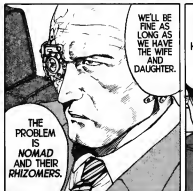
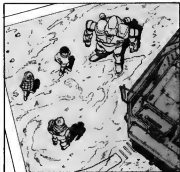












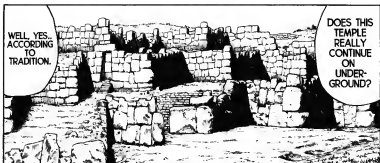
NOMAD: AN ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION WHICH DOES NOT OWN ANY TERRITORY AND OFFERS MILITARY POWER AS ITS PRIMARY COMMODITY. UNLIKE A TYPICAL WORK-FOR-HIRE MERCENARY GROUP, IT POSSESSES ITS OWN CHARACTERISTIC RELIEF SYSTEM.

RHIZOMERS: FROM "RHIZOME," AN UNDERGROUND ROOT-LIKE STEM. THE COMBAT UNITS OF NOMAD.



PGMS: PRECISION GUIDED MUNITIONS





WELL, YES.  
ACCORDING  
TO  
TRADITION.

DOES THIS  
TEMPLE  
REALLY  
CONTINUE  
ON  
UNDER-  
GROUND?



THAT'S  
WHY IT'S  
PERFECT!  
OUR ENEMIES  
WON'T KNOW  
ABOUT IT,  
EITHER!

BUT INSIDE  
IT'S ALL  
COBWEB-  
FILLED  
MAZES, SO  
NO ONE EVER  
GOES IN  
HERE.



OKAY

HERE  
WE  
GO!



BUT WHAT  
IF WE  
CAN'T GET  
OUT OF  
THERE  
BEFORE  
THEY GET  
HERE?



CHUCK

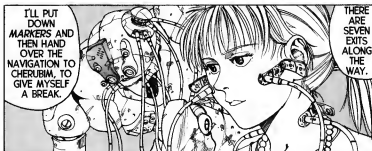
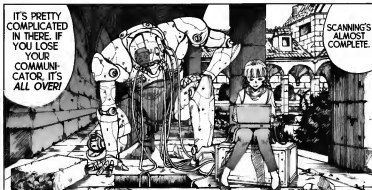
WE'VE  
GOT THE  
LATEST  
TECHNOLOGY  
COVERING  
US!

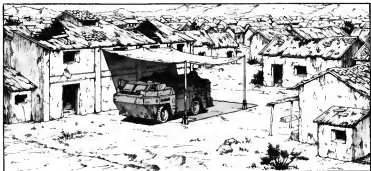
## Chapter 9 / Substitution















WHY  
ARE YOU  
FIGHTING?

MAYBE  
YOU  
SHOULD  
BE  
TOO...?



SLEEPING.

THE  
COLONEL  
?



I GUESS  
WYCLIFFE  
IS FROM THE  
CARIBBEAN  
SOMEWHERE...  
AND YOU'RE  
EUROPEAN,  
AREN'T YOU?

THE  
COLONEL IS  
GEORGIAN.  
KENJI'S  
JAPANESE.



ARE  
YOU A  
MERCEN-  
ARY?

IT'S MY  
JOB.



SO  
WHAT  
ARE  
YOU  
DOING  
HERE?

GREEK.



HOW'S THAT?  
I'VE NEVER  
HEARD OF ISLAMICS  
GIVING UP THEIR  
FAITH.

ORIGIN-  
ALLY.



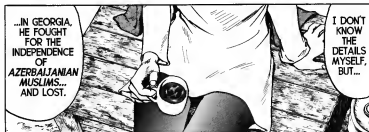
OF  
COURSE,  
I CAN'T  
TELL  
YOU ANY  
MORE  
THAN  
THAT.

IT  
LOOKS  
THAT  
WAY, BUT  
NO.



IS THE  
COLONEL  
A  
MUSLIM?

...



...IN GEORGIA,  
HE FOUGHT  
FOR THE  
INDEPENDENCE  
OF  
AZERBAIJANIAN  
MUSLIMS...  
AND LOST.

I DON'T  
KNOW  
THE  
DETAILS  
MYSELF,  
BUT...



SO...  
YOU'RE  
AN  
ATHEIST?

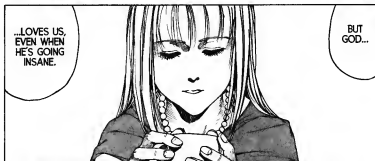
NO.



THAT'S  
ALL I  
KNOW.

SOPHIA,  
ARE YOU  
GREEK  
ORTHODOX  
?



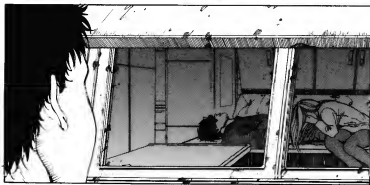










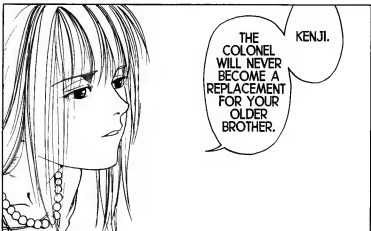












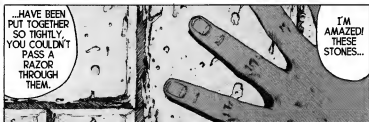












MODERN-  
DAY  
CONSTRUC-  
TIONS ARE  
NOTHING  
COMPARED  
TO THIS!

IT'S  
GONNA  
TAKE  
SOME  
TIME TO  
BLOW  
IT OPEN.



OH?  
REALLY  
?

HEY,  
NOW!  
YOU SEEM  
TO BE  
ENJOYING  
THIS!

...BUT IT  
NEVER  
ONCE  
CAME  
DOWN.

THERE  
HAVE  
BEEN SO  
MANY  
EARTH-  
QUAKES  
...



...EIGHT MEN AND  
WOMEN WERE  
BORN OUT OF A  
CAVE--A PLACE  
LIKE THIS--AND  
THEY FOUNDED  
THE INCA  
DYNASTY.

IN OUR  
MYTH-  
OLOGIES  
...





IT'S ALL  
FICTION  
BASED ON  
WOMB  
IMAGES,  
RIGHT?

WE CALL  
THE CAVE PACA-  
RITAMBO...THE  
LODGING PLACE  
OF THE ORIGIN.  
THE MOUNTAIN  
WAS TAMBO  
TOCO... "PLACE  
OF THE HOLE."



...WHAT  
ASTONISHES  
ME IS THAT  
A NATION  
EXISTED WITH  
THIS KIND OF  
ENGINEERING  
TECHNOLOGY..

...EVEN  
IN  
ANCIENT  
TIMES!

BEEP



YEAH,  
WELL...

YOU  
DON'T  
MINCE  
YOUR  
WORDS,  
DO  
YOU?



WERE  
YOU IN  
THE  
ARMY?



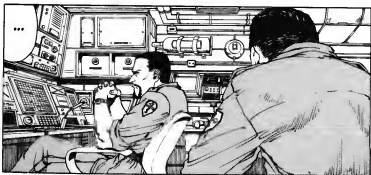
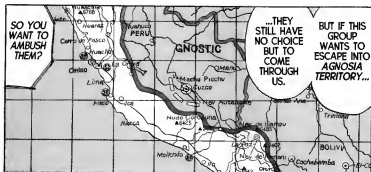
THAT'S  
WHAT I  
DO.

BUT  
YOU'RE  
GOING  
TO  
BLOW  
IT UP,  
RIGHT?









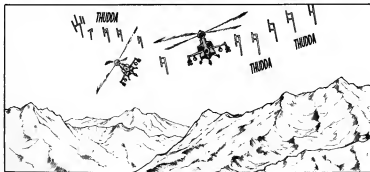
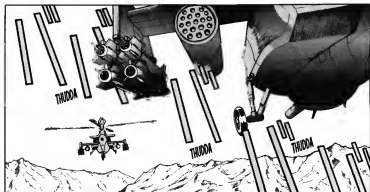
AGNOSIA TERRITORY: THE WORD USED BY PROPATER FOR REGIONS THEY THEMSELVES DO NOT CONTROL. AREAS WHICH ARE CONTROLLED BY PROPATER, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE CALLED GNOSTIC.







## Chapter 10 / Disruption

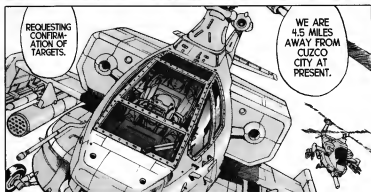
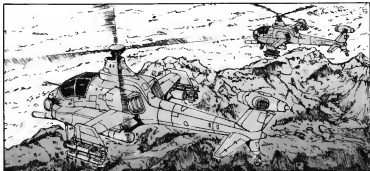








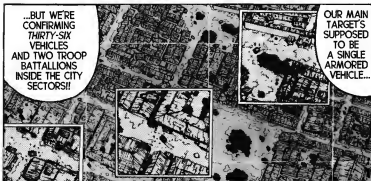






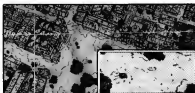
WHAT THE  
HELL IS  
THIS...?!

WHA--?



...BUT WE'RE  
CONFIRMING  
THIRTY-SIX  
VEHICLES  
AND TWO TROOP  
BATTALLIONS  
INSIDE THE CITY  
SECTORS!!

OUR MAIN  
TARGET'S  
SUPPOSED  
TO BE  
A SINGLE  
ARMORED  
VEHICLE...

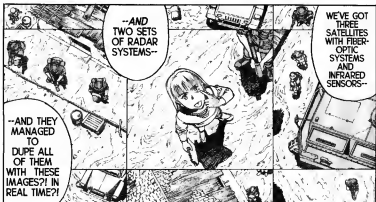


NOCTOVISION



THIS IS  
IMPOS-  
SIBLE!!

THEY'RE  
TRYING  
TO MAKE  
FOOLS  
OF US...



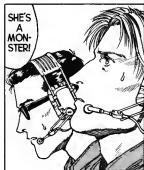
--AND  
TWO SETS  
OF RADAR  
SYSTEMS--

WE'VE GOT  
THREE  
SATELLITES  
WITH FIBER-  
OPTIC  
SYSTEMS  
AND  
INFRARED  
SENSORS--

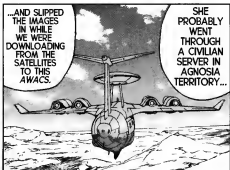
--AND THEY  
MANAGED  
TO  
DUPE ALL  
OF THEM  
WITH THESE  
IMAGES?! IN  
REAL TIME?!



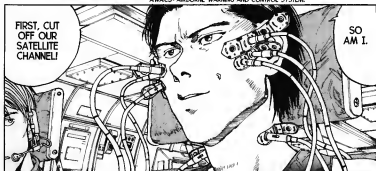
SHE ADDED APPROPRIATE TEMPERATURES, SHAPES, REFLECTION DATA, AND DOPPLER DATA TO ALL OF THESE DUMMY IMAGES.



...AND SLIPPED THE IMAGES IN WHILE WE WERE DOWNLOADING FROM THE SATELLITES TO THIS AWACS.



AWACS: AIRBORNE WARNING AND CONTROL SYSTEM.



SO AM I.



I'LL MELT  
THEIR I.C.E.,  
AND HER  
PRECIOUS  
SHIELDS  
WILL BE  
USELESS!

NEXT,  
SCAN FOR  
THE ENEMY  
USING ONLY  
THE RADAR  
ON THIS  
AIRCRAFT.



I'M ABOUT  
TO CLEAR  
THE DUMMY  
IMAGES!

TRAVIS  
TO  
ATTACK  
CHOPPERS!

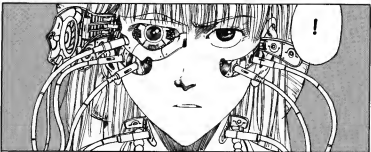
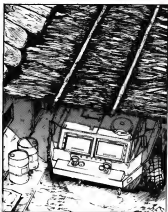
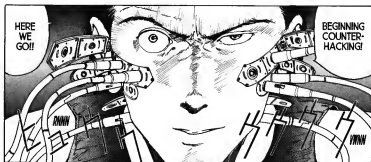


YOU'LL  
ONLY  
HAVE A  
MOMENT--  
DON'T  
LET THEM  
ESCAPE!

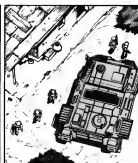


...LOCK  
ON AND  
FIRE AT  
WILL!!

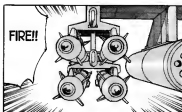
WHEN  
THE  
NUMBER OF  
TARGETS  
IS  
REDUCED  
TO ONE...



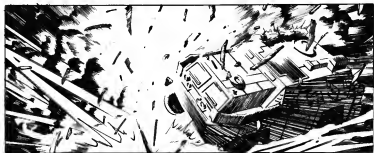
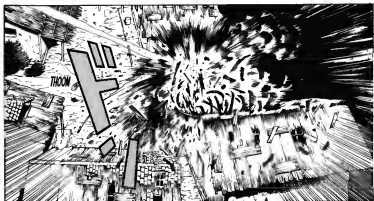


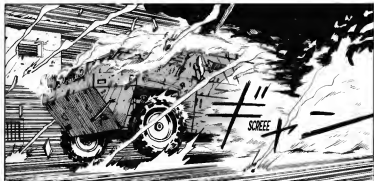


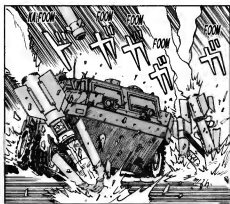
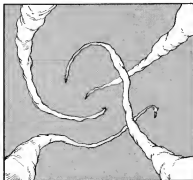


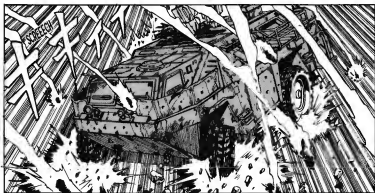
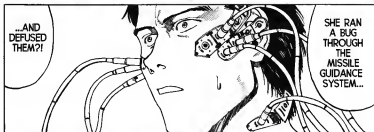
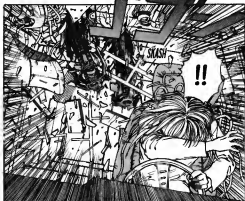




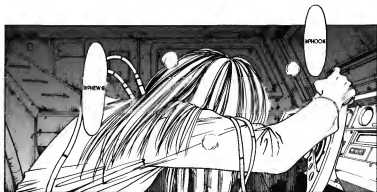










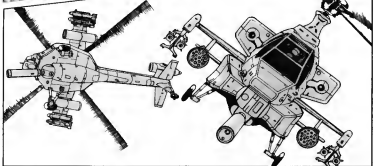


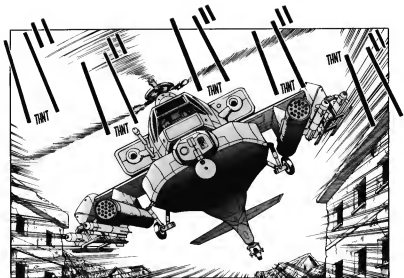


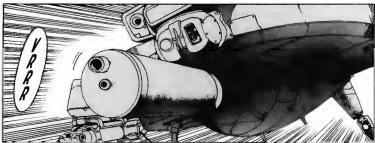


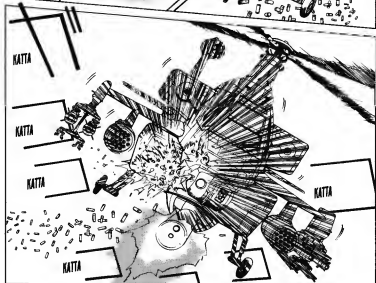
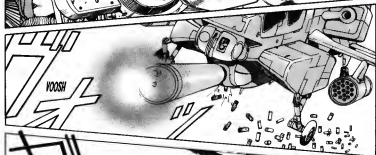
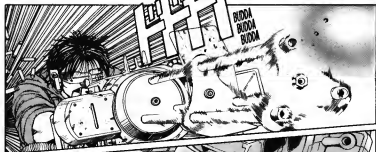


Chapter 11 / Rush



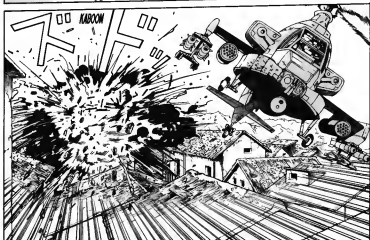


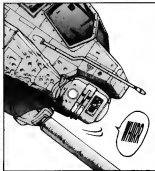
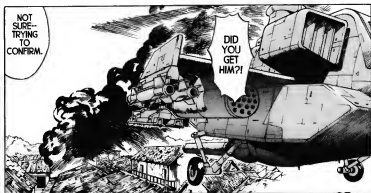


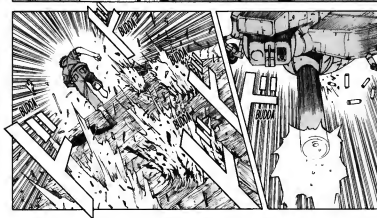


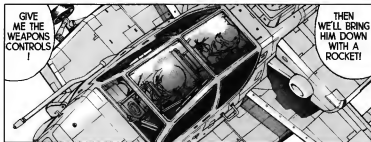
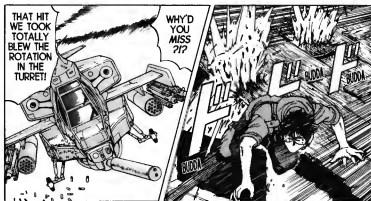


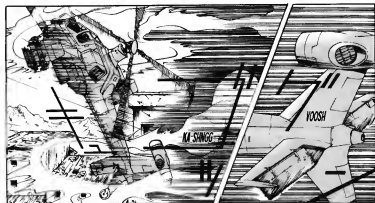


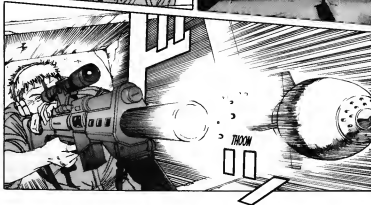
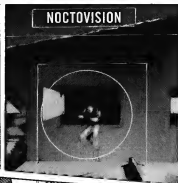


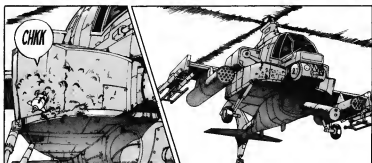
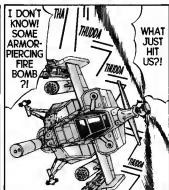


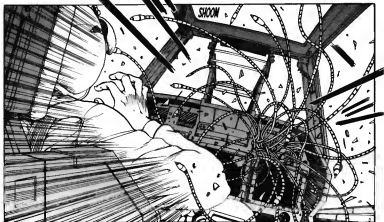






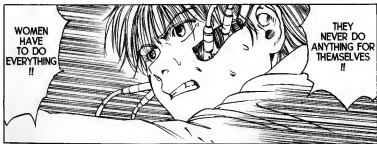
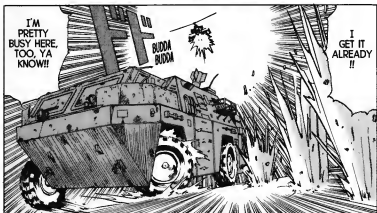


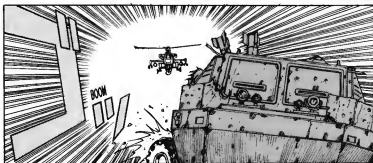




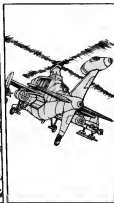
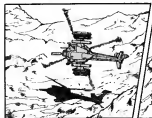
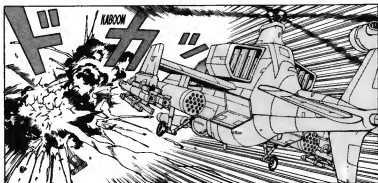




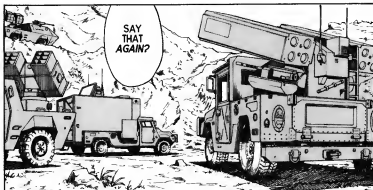








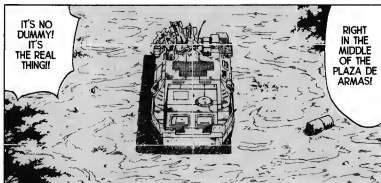
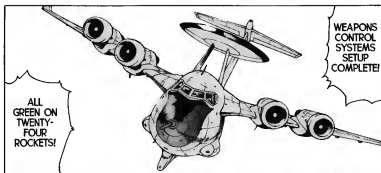


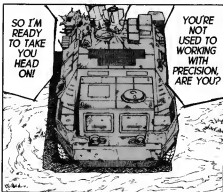


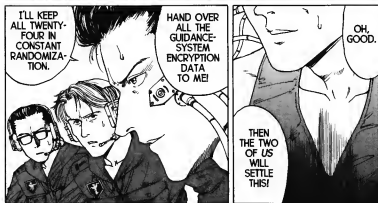


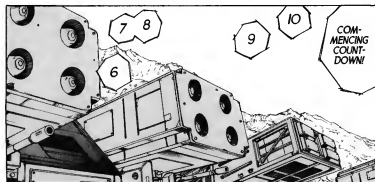




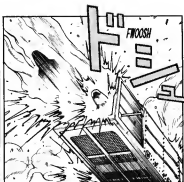
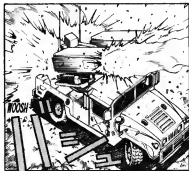


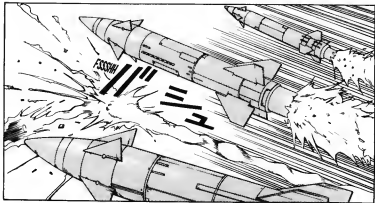




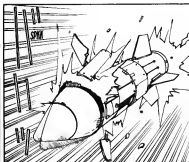


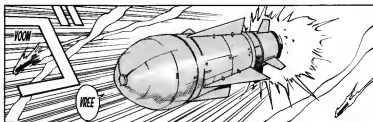


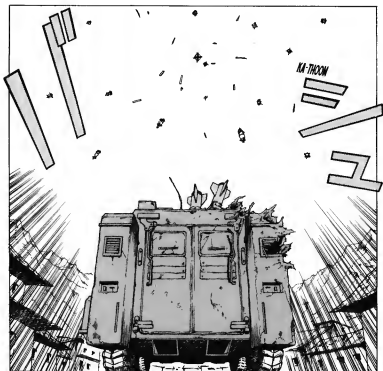












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**PHILIP SIMON**  
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**DAVID NESTELLE**  
**art director**  
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Please note that pages 78 and 79 of the original Japanese edition of this volume included a larger excerpt from "People Get Ready," Curtis Mayfield's civil rights anthem.

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### **EDEN: It's an endless world! Volume 2**

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# AFTERWORD

**People want to have mutual emotions. I'm not talking about philosophies,**

values, morals, or even laws. I mean raw emotions, including negative feelings, bundled all together. Everything. To share "feel," people willingly pay money to go see horror movies. So, it could be said that popularized and universally shared ideas equal emotion.

Only, life isn't just about fun. If you live in this society, you will inevitably end up crashing into things that upset you. Sometimes I feel that there are more things I dislike out there than things I like. Many people could say the same, but every person differs. I am sure that there are those people who feel nothing but sorrow. Their emotions don't balance. That imbalance is the only pure inequality in the world.

We need to find an emotional balance, before that day when we can feel nothing. We have to find the good and the bad and balance them out, making sure that we have equal parts of everything. If the sorrowful things are lost, then we won't be able to understand the happy things. If laughter is a cure for tension, then people must know what it is to be tense in order to have experienced laughter. (Of course, there are times when we laugh even though something isn't funny or the situation isn't tense.) If you take away pain, you also take away pleasure. (Although, for some people pain is pleasure.) Life is sometimes beautiful, I feel, because even if a friend dies, you're alive and therefore able to cry over the loss. It's that ability to "feel" that is so beautiful. You have to realize that it's a magnificent balancing act, and you have to learn to balance things before you are unable to feel anything at all.

Obviously, it would be nice if we felt nothing but happiness, but when you think about it realistically, it's probably impossible. That's why I think

any so-called "Utopia" will never happen. It's important to strive for such a thing, but if Utopia equals a world without sadness, then at the same time it must also equal a world without happiness. A world without feelings. A world without happiness, sadness, laughter, or anger . . . ? You can keep that world. I don't want it.

If there were "absolute truths" or "ultimate answers," then I guess we could all start to relax and learn to feel at ease all the time. But when I relax, I lose my nerve. If I was always at ease, I would wither away. If I have equality and balance in my happiness, sadness, laughter, and anger up until my death, then I know that I will die happy.

Honestly, I'm human, and I really, *really* hate any "difficult," sad feelings. I'm sick of them! So I try to put all of my feelings in order as best I can in my art . . . let's see if it works . . .

**—Hiroki Endo September 20, 1998**

*(Translation by Michael Gombos and Kamar Sivasubramanian)*



遠藤浩輝

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# Hiroki Endo

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*This collection is translated into English but oriented in right-to-left reading format, as originally published.*

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